June 2008 and August 2008 respectively and the same have been forwarded to Ministry of Power for furnishing their comments. Based on the recommendation of Ministry of Power, the above proposals will be placed before the Standing Linkage Committee (Long-term) [SCL(LT)] for power for consideration.

Import of coal

†3201. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether coal is imported on a large scale because of sub-standard heat value of that found in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the quantity of coal imported in metric tonnes during the last three years, year-wise;

(d) the total amount being incurred on import of coal; and

(e) whether Government proposes to abolish import duty on coal so that the domestic steel, power and cement companies could get due returns?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) Primarily, due to gap in demand and indigenous availability of high grade coal and economic considerations, the concerned user industries are importing coal which is placed under Open General Licence (OGL) category. Some coal is also being imported by the thermal power stations to meet environmental norms. The production of coal has been increasing significantly over the years but the quality of coal produced by the major producer *i.e.* Coal India Limited (CIL) is largely of lower grade *i.e.* E and F. During the year 2008-09, CIL produced about 68% of total coal pertaining to these lower grades.

(c) and (d) Import of coal during last three years both in quantity and value (CIF Value) is given below:—

Year	Quantity (Million Tonnes)	Import (Rs. in Crore)
2006-07	43.081	16689
2007-08	49.794	20738
2008-09 (Upto January, 2009)	45.907	32691

(e) No, Sir. At present, there is nil duty on imported coking coal and 5% duty on imported non-coking coal.

Regulations for mega mergers

3202. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS of be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether Government is formulating regulations for the mega mergers and corporate restructuring deals to be followed by the Completion Commission of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of proposals pending with Government for mergers; and

(d) the decision taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) The Competition Act, 2002 *inter alia* provides for regulation of combinations in accordance with the provisions contained therein. However, the provisions of the Competition Act, 2002 relating to regulation of combinations, including mergers and amalgamations have not yet come into force as the same have not been notified.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Developmental projects in the North Eastern Region

3203. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of developmental projects in the North-Eastern Region being implemented at present with the Central assistance;

(b) the number out of them, pending for over three years, less than three years but more than two years and less than two years but more than one year; and

(c) the details to the reasons for delay in their completion in each case and the steps proposed to expedite their completion?

THE MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) and (b) The Ministry of DoNER provides Central assistance for the developmental projects in the North Eastern Region under Non-Lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR). North Eastern Council (NEC) also sanctions projects in NE States. The number of developmental projects under implementation which were sanctioned in the North Eastern Region under NLCPR and through NEC, and number of them pending for over three years, less than three years but more than two years and less than two years but more than on year is given below.

No. of projects under implementation	No. of Projects pending by			
	More than 1 year	More than 2 Years	More than 3 Years	Total
666	115	123	164	402

(c) The main reason for their pendency, *inter alia*, includes the shorter working period because of long rainy season in the North Eastern Region, delay in release of funds by the State